
FACT SHEET

Univar USA Inc., Kingsport, Tennessee

This Fact Sheet is for the Univar USA Inc. (Univar) facility located at 302 Riverport Lane in Kingsport, TN. This facility has been a distribution facility since 1966 when it was developed by Moreland Chemical. In 1978 it became McKesson Chemical, and in 1986 it became Van Waters & Rogers Inc. A couple of name changes to Vopak USA Inc. and then Univar USA Inc. then occurred. The facility has operated as a chemical warehousing and distribution center from 1966 to the present. The distribution activities involve receiving common industrial chemicals (including food grade products, solvents, surfactants and other products) in bulk quantities from the manufacturers, and then distributing the chemicals in smaller quantities to customers in the area. Certain chemicals are received as bulk liquids via rail and tanker trucks, stored in the above-ground tank farm, and then repackaged into smaller containers for distribution. The facility also utilizes a warehouse for the storage of various pre-packaged chemicals, additives, and food-grade materials.

As part of its ChemCare® program, Van Waters & Rogers Inc. formerly maintained a small, hazardous waste storage unit inside the warehouse. The storage unit had been permitted by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The permit was issued in 1986 and expired in 1996. The permit allowed the temporary storage of up to 4,950-gal of hazardous waste in approved containers within the permitted storage area. Upon receiving truck-load volumes of waste, the waste was shipped offsite within 90 days for recycling and/or disposal. Van Waters & Rogers provided the ChemCare® service to it's customers which purchased various products from them. The permitted storage area at the site was properly closed in July 1996 following the closure plans, and the closure was certified by the TDEC.

Due to the permitted waste storage unit, the TDEC performed a visual site inspection in 1997 and prepared a RCRA Facility Assessment report later that year. The TDEC identified several areas requiring investigation to evaluate environmental conditions in these areas. Although the TDEC inspection was due to the permitted storage unit, the areas currently requiring investigation are actually unrelated to the former storage unit, but are due to the distribution activities and associated tanks and chemical handling.

Environmental investigation activities were initiated in a phased approach and began in 1999. Due to the findings, several additional investigation activities were completed and the area of investigation has expanded. Currently Univar has installed 20 monitoring wells for this investigation, completed many additional soil borings, has laboratory analyzed hundreds of soil and groundwater samples, and will be installing 4 additional offsite monitoring wells in the near future, as well as further evaluating the bedrock. The investigation activities indicate that the soil and shallow groundwater have been impacted by both chlorinated and non-chlorinated volatile organics at levels requiring clean-up. The additional investigation activities are geared toward delineating the edge of the impacts.

Although Univar has been completing investigation activities on it's own in cooperation with the TDEC, the TDEC has issued an Order, in lieu of a permit, as a means of ensuring that the investigation activities continue and are properly undertaken. Upon completion of the investigation activities, Univar will complete remediation (clean-up) activities for the identified impacts. Remediation activities could include various technologies such as excavation, soil vapor extraction, enhanced bioremediation, groundwater recovery and treatment, a combination of the above, or other technologies.

Contact Tony Pirelli of Univar at 262-250-1381, or Tom Sullivan of Bascor Environmental at 608-274-9911, if you have any questions regarding this project.